

PETER'S ROCK ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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*Secretary:*  
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*Treasurer:*  
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February 18, 2011

To: Senator Steve Cassano, Co-Chairman  
Representative Linda Gentile, Co-Chairman  
Honorable Members of the Planning and Development Committee  
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT

From: Christopher Fletcher: President, Peter's Rock Association, Inc.

Re: **H.B. No. 6261 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES**

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Gentile, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is Chris Fletcher and I am the President of Board of Directors for the Peter's Rock Association in North Haven. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the 200 members of the Peter's Rock Association, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of **H.B. No. 6261 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES.**

The Peter's Rock Association was established in 2004, by a group of North Haven residents and others, with the assistance of the Town of North Haven. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation similar to the Sleeping Giant Park Association in Hamden. Our mission is to preserve, maintain and improve 220-acres of Town-owned land in the southeast corner of North Haven, bordering the City of New Haven and the Town of East Haven, known as Peter's Rock, for public use as a park, forest and open space, with hiking trails, picnic areas, observation points and other uses as determined by the Association and the Town.

Since our incorporation, our members and volunteers have worked tirelessly to maintain the park and its trails, and to promote its safe use for the community. Yet our efforts have been grossly hindered due to reckless and irresponsible use of all-terrain vehicles and other motorized vehicles in the park. Our primary concern is for the safety and well being of those who hike and walk the trails. This unwarranted activity has endangered hikers, upset the fragile ecology and disturbed the peace and serenity of the mountain. Our all volunteer organization has had an extremely difficult time maintaining the parks trails because of the frequent and unauthorized use by ATV operators.

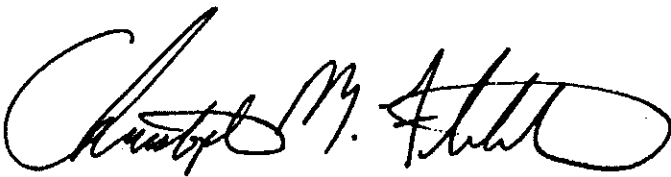
We have experience widespread damage throughout the park, especially to our trails where deep ruts in the have been formed causing serious soil erosion and drainage issues. Vegetation and valuable wetlands have also been destroyed. The damage produced by this activity has made hiking difficult and

almost impossible in many areas of the park. Furthermore, unmarked trails have been formed by these vehicles, making it difficult for hikers unfamiliar with the trail system to navigate the park.

By increasing the penalties for unauthorized all-terrain vehicles, it is our hope that this step will help to deter this already illegal, unwanted and unacceptable activity in our park, and in parks across the State of Connecticut. We urge the committee to adopt this legislation as stronger laws are needed to put an end to the damaging effects of this activity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in favor of this proposal. We appreciate your support of this legislation, and thank the committee for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher M. Fletcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "F".

Christopher Fletcher  
President, Peter's Rock Association